



Happy New Year to you and your families. We hope you had a wonderful Christmas break and are ready for a fun and jam packed half term. Let's take a little look at what we will be focusing on this half term ...

### English

During our English sessions, we will be using a picture book called, 'Float'. This book will take us on an adventure of a little boy who makes a paper boat. Year 4 will be writing their own adventure story using their senses. Once we have completed this topic, we will be moving onto a non-fiction text called 'The River' where the children will be writing with a sharp focus on the craft and construction of sentences. Each Sentence Stacking lesson is organised into three learning chunks. Sentences created by pupils will be used to form a whole class written text which will help them to write independently.

### Reading

This term, the children will be reading a book called, 'Ariki and the islands of wonder'. This is an adventure story about a young girl who floats out from her island and becomes lost. First stop, let's build an island.

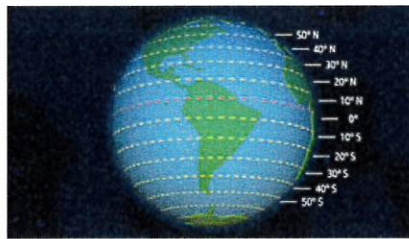
Whilst reading, the children will be answering test-style questions about what they have read- This will be both verbally and written.

During the second half term of Spring, we will be moving onto 'How to train your dragon' by Cressida Cresswell. The children will be using the domains from the national curriculum to answer questions based upon what they have read. They will answer both factual and opinion based questions.

### CREATIVE CURRICULUM

#### Geography

During our geography lessons this half term, the children will be learning about the whole world. In this topic, we will be focussing on new vocabulary: longitude, latitude, equator, GMT and Tropics. We will also be using co-ordinates to find different locations on Earth within an atlas.



#### History

Within our History topic, we will be looking at the Romans. In particular, how they have influenced the world today. We will be focusing on their army, number system and how they lived. We look forward to having a battle!

#### Art

During this half term, we will be focussing on 'fruit and vegetables'. We will learn about different artists and how they use fruit and vegetables in their works. Over the next few weeks, we will be using charcoals, crayons and clay to portray different works.

#### DT

This will be a really interesting and fun topic- Mechanical posters! Can we get something to move? The children will go through the planning, making and evaluating processes of this topic to create a successful moving poster.

#### Science

#### Music:

The children will continue learning alongside our super Rokit Project playing both tuned and untuned instruments and learning to sing, write and describe the music they have listened to. The children will be using different instruments such as keyboards, ukuleles, drums, glockenspiels and their voices.

#### Computing:

To start the half term, the children will continue to learn about spreadsheets and how they work. After that, your child will look at different styles of writing such as email, poster, and newspapers. They will select the most appropriate one to report on a scenario they will be watching. Moving into spring 2, the children will move onto the 'logo' topic, where they will use their coding skills to create a logo.

#### RE

During this term the children will be learning about Christian and Hindu questions on life. They will learn about each religions' beliefs and why they believe in what they do. By the end of the topic, the children will compare and contrast the views of Christians and Hindus.

During Spring 2, the children will dig deeper into Christianity through the topic, "Finding reasons to care through religious stories" The children will be finding the meaning of the different stories they read.

#### PE:

In P.E. this term, Year 4 will be continuing to develop their skills in swimming. The children will use their previously learnt skills to begin to swim longer lengths and widths of the pool. This half term we hope to have no floats in the pool and all children swimming unaided. Those who can already swim well will be mastering techniques.

### Spelling

Each week, your child will be focusing on a certain sound or set of words. The children will complete activities, in which they must understand the word and know how to spell them. We then complete a weekly spelling test based on these spellings. To help with their spellings, your child will bring homework home with these spellings on. This term we will focus on –sion, -ous, ee as i, ous after i, au, cian, ssion, ly, and word from the Y3/4 wordlist.

### Maths

In maths, we will be studying multiplication and division. The children will learn different methods they can use to multiply and divide numbers. As well as this, they will learn key vocabulary such as factors of a number.

Moving through the term, we will move onto fractions. During this topic, we will focus on what a fraction is, along with a unit and non-unit fraction. The children will look at equivalent fractions before moving onto adding and subtracting using the same denominator.

Every week, the children complete number club along with the revising their multiplication check to keep their mental multiplication fresh ready for their test in June.

### PSHE

Our theme for PSHE this term is Hopes and Dreams. During our PSHE lessons, the children will begin to explore what hopes and dreams are and what theirs are. They will also look for ways to achieve their goals. In addition to this, they will learn about disappointment, and how they may not always achieve the goals they had in mind. With this they will come up with strategies to overcome struggles and disappointment.

In science the children will be learning about living things and their habitats. Over the next few weeks the children will develop their understanding on living things and their classifications. As well as this, they will look at different animals' habitats and how they help them to survive. Hopefully, we will have a trip out to conclude this topic before moving onto animals including humans. This topic will focus on features of the body and how they work.

We will also be looking at British Science Week and completing some extra experiments in line with the whole country.

### French

In our lessons, the children will learn to read, write, and speak the new vocabulary that they learn. To encourage learning within this unit, we will be listening and repeating vocabulary.

Over the coming weeks, the children will focus on learning a familiar fairy tale and will retell it both verbally and through written work. We will end the unit with an assessment of all the skills they have learnt.

During the second half term, the children will learn about different habitats and will continue to develop oral and written skills.

Please remember to bring your swimming kit every Friday!

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

#### School Uniform

Children should wear the correct school uniform every day to school. There will be no PE kit this year as the children are going swimming for their PE sessions.

#### **The school uniform should be as follows:**

- White polo t-shirt or shirt
- Black trousers
- Navy jumper / cardigan
- Black shoes

#### **The swimming kit should be as follows:**

- Swimsuit /swim trunks
- Towel
- Swimming hat

Please note: Children should **not** wear any jewellery, except a watch and stud earrings.

#### Communication

We will endeavour to speak to you at the end of the day, as and where needed. Please be aware we ask that parents wait until the other children have been dismissed for safety reasons.

We thank you for your continued support and look forward to the year ahead.